Mahajan, Minister of Communications and IT and Mr. L. D. Reiman, Minister of Communications and Information: Under this MoU, the Ministries of Communications of the two countries will exchange inform^ion on telecom policy and regulatory issues, search for technical solution to achieve effectiveness in telecom sector, develop and apply advanced technologies in the field of telecom, and exchange experts and sharing training facilities in this sector.

6. Protocol between the Government of the State of Karnataka of the Republic of India and the Samara Region Administration of the Russian Federation on trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural cooperation signed by Shri S. M. Krishna, Chief Minister of Karnataka and Mr. K. A.Titov, Governor of the Samara Region: This Protocol has been signed under the framework of the Government on Cooperation between the States and Union Territories of India and the Regions of Russia which was signed in October 2000. Karnataka and Samara Region will, in accordance with the laws of the two countries, will promote cooperation in trade, economic, scientific, technological and cultural fields, as well as in education, sports and tourism sectors.

Joint task force to improve intra-regional trade

3026. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: DR.
ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:
DR.TSUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a joint task force on enhancing trade relations with India's neighbours is being set up by the Ministries of External Affairs, Finance and Company Affairs and Commerce and Industry to explore ways to improve intra-regional trade;

(b) if so, the outcome of the suggestions made by the taskforce;

(c) whether any agreements have been reached with the neighbouring countries for boosting trade; and

(d) if so, the points of agreements reached?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Government attaches high priority to strengthening all round economic relations, including trade, with India's neighbours. Policy initiatives in this direction are evolved through inter-Ministerial consultations among the Ministry of External Affairs and the key economic Ministries, including Finance and Company Affairs, and Commerce & Industry.

(c) and (d) Government have a number of trade agreements with neighbouring countries, which are reviewed periodically.

Made-ln-lndia fair in Kabul

3027. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the highlights of "Made-in-india" fair in Kabul;

(b) how many Indian firms had participated in the fair and whether foreign firms had also taken part;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) worth of business struck and future agreements entered into with the Government of Afghanistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a)The Made-in-lndia show in Kabul, organized by the Confederation of Indian Industries in September this year, was the first large scale single country industrial exhibition in Afghanistan since the establishment of Afghan Interim Administration last year. The exhibition was yet another manifestation of Indian commitment to the rebuilding and reconstruction of Afghanistan. It introduced the Indian capabilities in the field of commerce and industry to the Afghan leadership,, people and the business community.

(b) to (d) 169 companies representing the cross-section of Indian industry participated in the fair. No foreign firms participated in the exhibition.

The exhibition helped in the establishment of network of contacts between the business communities of the two countries. It is felt that the